

OTHER NETWORKS

a newsletter about networks of people



VOL 2 NO 2 PUBLIC INTEREST MEDIA PROJECT

SPRING 1984

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INTRODUCTION

In writing this newsletter, we are concerned with creating useful connections among people. "Networking" is a term which describes the process of actively seeking new contacts, while helping others to do so also. We present news, notices, reviews and articles about networks and the people who are applying network ideas in the real world.

This issue has been slow in arriving. Several factors added to the delay. The Media Project's office moved two flights down from a bedroom to the store below to make room for Sally McCabe who has definitely become a permanent resident here. (Sal and I are still trying to figure out how to pay for the grand wedding we'd like, but it will happen within a year.) Also, I have learned a great deal about computers: for one thing, they create order and structure. But, computers EAT time. This issue was created on a Kaypro II time eating machine, it is highly structured. Indexes of O.N. material will be included in future issues thanks to this added structure.

We have six article contributors to this issue. I especially enjoyed including Stephen Sikora's encouraging remarks about correspondence. My activities with correspondence groups (multilogues) has shown that the idea he is promoting can be available even to us sporadic letter writers. Allen Pincus permitted us to reprint a handout he uses to introduce his students to Seymore Sarason's "resource exchange rationale". Julie Summers helps us to push the limits of self-reliance with her hints about acquiring useful information while Scott Parker presents a way to index and organize collected clippings. Jim Bunn is our first columnist and Ed Ricchezza provides comic relief (I hope he WAS kidding) with his personal account of computer communications.

The Apple computer owned by the Philadelphia County Extension Service (where Sally is an "urban gardening" instructor) is now a dial-up "bulletin board" at night. People interested in gardening, home economics and pest control, can call with their computer terminal and leave messages or read what the extension people post. This is the Media Project's first outside computer project and I am the system operator or "sysop". Call 215-276-5177 to reach GARDEN-WORKS and leave me a note!

With this issue we welcome Paul Sank aboard as our new treasurer. Paul has helped throughout the last 9 months to get things organized around here.

David Peltier of Sundara in Madison Wisconsin and Gary Smith (Winged Mercury), helped make the physical move to our new office space when they visited in November. Thanks guys!

-- Stan Pokras

OTHER NETWORKS

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OTHER NETWORKS

READING AND WRITING FOR ANSWERS

by Stephen Sikora

Reading is fine; I'm not knocking that. Some of the best years and highest times of my life have been spent in front of printed pages. As Ringo says in the Beatles' first movie, "You can learn a lot from bukes."

But reading alone is just that - a solitary act. For a moment or two you may feel that some writer has made a direct hit on your heart and consciousness. In the highest of times, the whole world opens out from the words on a page and wraps you up in it. But not often, and usually not for long.

Try writing back to some writers (if they're still alive) who did the gift-wrapping for you. If you're very lucky you might get a few lines back from their very own typewriters: "Glad you liked my book, wonderful to hear from one's readers, Yours truly." Less lucky readers will get a form-letter reply telling of other books by the same author which you will no doubt want to buy, and how his time is too filled up for personal correspondence but you might catch him two weeks from now on Johnny Carson.

Most of us will get back only silence. I know. I've tried. Some essay in *The Nation*, *New Republic*, or (heaven help me!) *The American Spectator* starts me thinking and raises a bunch of questions. I want answers, I want discussion, I want to know just what I think. But what I get is maybe a pat on the back (on lucky days) and most often only silence. A silence that tells me, "You're just a dumb reader, boy - dumb, (get it?), a voiceless consumer whose job is to sit there and lap up the golden words of us busy professional writers. We don't have time for the likes of you. We talk; you listen".

Getting mad may be dumb too, I guess. In a highly complex world like ours, there is bound to be a lot of specialization. Everybody does one job and nothing else. A few

specialized intellectuals do all the writing, and the rest of us only read. And lord knows those few in the limelight are bombarded by letters from the lunatic and adoring fringes. (Junk mail and fan mail, it's called). There is no way for one writer to talk personally to ten thousand different readers.

So I say forget those writers up there on the stage. Give up the passive role of idle spectator, silently taking in their precious words like Roman crowds dumbfounded by the sword-work in the arena below. There's no good way to talk back to them, and we amateur readers certainly cannot compete with their highly polished cuts and thrusts.

But we can write to each other. We can find answers, discussion, and ways to think for ourselves through the exchange of private letters.

And I don't mean letters to the editor, to congressmen, or the local water district. Such letters have their use occasionally and may even draw a response, especially if it's election year. But more often than not, you'll get back either a form-letter or silence. Public officials, like our public writers, are much too busy to be talking to us personally. They only function, it seems, in front of crowds.

So if our leaders and our writers are 'unavailable for comment', as they say, that leaves us to get on with the job ourselves, and I can think of no better way than through the exchange of private correspondence.

Steven Sikora publishes a directory of people who are interested in corresponding with others about specific topics. Sample issues of the *Letter Exchange* are \$1 from P.O. Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706.

previously published in *Alternative Media*

SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE:

By Allen Pincus

Based on a medical model, many human service professionals relate to people around their deficiencies and try to fix what is wrong with them. Our approach focuses on what is right with people, their strengths and resources. We try to help clients to recognize and develop their assets and bring them to bear on the problems confronting them. This type of social work has a developmental/preventive focus as opposed to a remedial focus. Learning and resource development rather than "treatment" more closely conveys the process the worker is engaged in.

The problem-solving process

Social work practice is viewed largely as engaging with people in a problem-solving process. (The term "problem" is not used here to refer only to undesirable situations -- e.g., the problem of child abuse--but to refer to any challenge, opportunity or questions posed--e.g., how to utilize a person's ability to speak Spanish.) Our expertise as social workers lies more in the process itself and engaging with people in it than in knowing the answers or solutions to people's problems. "Learning" and "research" are not regarded as processes distinct from problem solving, but as alternative conceptualizations of the same basic process. The problem solving process requires lateral (intuitive, right hemisphere) as well as vertical (rational, analytical, left hemisphere) thinking.

Resources

The concept "resources" plays a big role in our conception of practice. A resource is anything which can be put to use to help solve a problem or meet a need. Social work tries to link people to existing resources, foster the development of new resources, bring together varied resources around a common purpose, and bring out the resources in people. Since a person's perception often determines what is seen as a resource in a given situation, learning to broaden and shift perceptions, an important problem solving skill, is also an important resource generating skill. With growing recognition of the limited nature of many of our exist-

Some Aspects of

ing resources (energy resources being a prime example), we are challenged to redefine what we consider to be a resource (especially how people can be resources to each other), how to use available resources to generate new and needed resources (social work as an energy conversion activity), and how to achieve more equitable distribution of resources.

Reciprocal relationships

The social worker who uses our ideas works through collaborative, reciprocal mutual relationships. Such relationships are not seen as the product of using relationship or interpersonal skills. Rather, they grow out of recognition that the people we work with are resources to us as well as the other way around. If complementary self-interests and needs are met in a relationship, such a relationship will develop a mutual and collaborative nature. Relating to people around their strengths rather than deficiencies, facilitating solution-finding rather than providing solutions, identifying similarities with rather than differences from the people we work with, building linkages rather than maintaining boundaries, and sharing responsibility for outcomes -- these are the things which help build good working relationships.

Network building

Because we see people as the major resource we work with, network building is a major concern. Networks are the medium through which people can share and exchange their resources. In the words of Sarason and Lorentz *The Challenge of the Resource Exchange Network*, page 12:

"When we use the term *resource exchange* . . . in the context of the development of a network, our focus goes beyond a narrow conception of exchange to one in which people learn to see themselves and each other as very differentiated resources that literally expand not only knowledge of one's environment but the possibil-

a Problem-Solving Generalist Perspective

ities for influencing and changing it as well. At its best, the resource exchange network creates an ambience that empowers people, in the sense that the process of redefinition is one in which our usually restricted sense of the universe of alternatives for thought and action is challenged and changed and in which we feel less impotent to direct our lives. And, crucially, what is learned goes beyond the personal or interpersonal to the cognitive stance that allows one to see ways whereby the needs and resources of groups ordinarily seen as differing from each other (possessing labels that tell us to shift the structure of our thinking as our attention goes from one group to another) can now be seen in relation to each other."

Small (and diverse) is beautiful
(Social work as if people mattered)

This is another way of individualizing the people and situations you are dealing with as a social worker, in your assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation. This derives not just from the altruistic notion of the right of every person to be treated as a unique individual, but also from an "ecological ethic" or principle that diversity is healthy for a system and makes it less vulnerable. Diversity is promoted by developing local solutions to local problems, which reflect the culture and resources of the locality (both in conceptualizing the problem and in developing solutions). Unquestioned and widespread reliance on a single solution, (be it use of chemicals to eliminate weeds or behavior modification to eliminate acting out behavior in the classroom) is a way to court disaster. (I am not advocating the elimination of all state and federal programs, but suggesting that social policies and programs promote diversity and supplement rather than eliminate local solutions and resources.)

Social Worker as gardener or ecologist

Analogies are useful for conveying meaning. The social worker as gardener emphasizes a facilitative role (in collaborating with nature) to help things grow. Unlike an engineer building a bridge who has complete control over the process and end product, the gardener helps nurture the potential in the seed by facilitating the conditions which promote growth. The social worker as ecologist calls attention to the interdependent nature of the universe, especially how problems are often created by solutions. Further, just as an understanding of how nature's interdependent systems operate can help us to wisely use nature's resources, an understanding of natural informal helping systems in the social world (including self-help and mutual help groups) can help us learn how to wisely utilize human resources and suggest models for programs and services. The holistic health practitioner, who seeks to understand and work with the natural healing forces of the body is another similar analogy.

Generalist

The term *generalist* is employed here to describe the practitioner whose practice reflects the above ideas. A generalist is not someone who lacks a practice specialization but one who is committed to systems thinking in viewing the world, one who looks for interrelationships, one who is skilled in the process of creative problem-solving, one who can view problems as opportunities, one who is skilled in identifying resources and reciprocal needs. If there is anything "unique" about social work it is probably that the profession itself is a generalist profession, dealing holistically with people.

Allen Pincus teaches Social Work at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. He has also been active in a local barter exchange. Write Allen at: University of Wisconsin, School of Social Work, 425 Henry Mall, Madison WI 53706.

HELP YOURSELF TO THE ANSWERS

by Julie Summers

While It's not always easy to find, a great deal of information is available gratis because many people enjoy sharing their knowledge, which has the fortunate characteristic of being something one can give away and retain at the same time. Businesses usually will give away information as good public relations. However to those whose livelihood is selling information, expect to pay a reasonable price, since they're saving you gathering time. I say *reasonable* because generally speaking, unless you happen to be in espionage, there are no secrets.

When Going Thru the Mail

Formulate your question as clearly and as briefly as possible. I have found I can usually cut my original statements by half. If possible, before mailing have a friend check your letter for understandability. What may seem perfectly clear to you may prove unintelligible to others. Write clearly or type: if you don't have time to write your letter so others can read it easily, why should they take time to decipher it?

People generally like to be *useful* but not *used*, so it's important to be considerate. As well as being concise and legible this includes sending a SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope). (However to government agencies and other organizations with large advertising and PR budgets I don't think a SASE matters.)

In addition to a SASE and thank-you it may be appropriate to include some money, useful information, or an offer of services, e.g., "Is there something I can do for you?"

If possible direct your query to a specific title or department. Visualizing the organization of the outfit being queried may help you to figure out what department to address. Instead of just "University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon," it would be better to write: Research Lab Director, Department of Chemistry, U of O... In order to save time it may be best not to write to a particular person.

If I don't know the group's organization I may write in the lower left corner of the front of the envelope, for example, "Question regarding the toxicity of the plastic in garbage cans" and leave it up to the secretary sorting the mail to route my letter, without having to open it and figure out what it's about. I figure a letter which remains unopened until reaching the person who's going to answer it is less likely to get lost or discarded en route.

The fewer questions asked at a time, the greater may be the chance of receiving a reply since a query that can be answered quickly is probably more likely to get immediate action, whereas one that's going to take lots of time is more likely to get put off -- indefinitely.

Ask questions in one letter that apply to only one department of the group being queried since the more the letter has to be sent around to other departments, the less likely it will receive prompt (read any) attention.

When Using the Phone

Some people who would be difficult to see in person or who might never get around to answering a letter may be accessible by telephone. (Their calls may be screened so it's well to rehearse one's introduction.)

As with letters, first try to get through to someone likely to be able to answer your question. E.g., if I want to find out if a hospital cafeteria will give me empty plastic jugs, I ask the hospital switchboard operator to please connect me with the "cafeteria manager".

If someone on the phone can't answer my question, I ask if they have any idea who could, and often I get a lead. The lead may not pan out but may give me another lead that does.

Sometimes keeping the conversation going (perhaps by rephrasing one's question) may turn something up. Being persistent (read making a pest of oneself) has its merits -- some people need the incentive of getting rid of you to come up with something help-

ful. E.g., the bureaucratic clerk of the college chemistry dispensary told me she couldn't sell to me because I didn't have a requisition number. So I asked her if she knew the name of a professor I could go through. No, she didn't. So I asked if she knew who taught general chemistry. In other words I refused to hang up. Finally she gave me the name of someone who did help me.

A Few of My Favorite General Sources

Librarians may be able to point you directly to the information you want, or at least towards it. They can acquaint you with directories of associations, manufacturers, people, periodicals and other reference works.

The National Referral Center, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540, is another good starting point. They try to supply names and addresses of those likely able to answer questions on virtually any subject.

The Phone Book Yellow Pages is a good source of likely question answerers or leads. (The index may be at the beginning.)

The USDA has been for me a good source of info relating to food. There appear to be myriad branches but they seem good about forwarding: USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Northern Regional Research Lab., 1815 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61604.

The Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA 30333, have been excellent for answering medical questions of a non-personal nature. Viz., when asked about treating water to deter parasites, or about washing small wounds, or about vaginal yeast infections, I got helpful replies; but when I described specific symptoms and asked what disease I might have, they merely said go see a doctor.

University departments (e.g., botany, game management, nutrition, etc.) are sometimes helpful. Since professors may have thorough knowledge of their fields' literature, they should at least be able to recommend reading material. Because I feel

universities may be more sensitive to in-state requests I stay within my own state unless I know an out-of-state school specializing in the area of my question. (Some dictionaries include a list of colleges and universities.)

Finally, be patient: many questions may presently have no answers. Keep seeking -- keep sharing, and we can help each other towards our answers.

Contributions of the author, Julie Summers, have appeared in over thirty periodicals to date. Her hints on living well with little money appear regularly in *Message Post*, portable dwelling newsletter (sample \$1) POB 190, Philomath, OR 97370.



Civic Information and Techniques Exchange

The CIVITEX database sponsored by Partnerships Dataline U.S.A., focuses on methods of community problem solving. In development for over two years, it consists of several thousand "profiles" of specific community projects. The projects outlined reflect the broad range of "civic activism" in the U.S. today. While the profiles in the database can be searched according to specific subject areas (such as housing, health care, commercial revitalization, etc.), they can also be searched by the methods and processes utilized in accomplishing the projects (such as fundraising, evaluation, goal-setting, public relations, use of local media, etc.). Eventually this service will operate on a sliding scale fee, currently it is free.

Write: Citizens Forum on Self-Government
55 West 44th Street, New York NY 10036
or call 800-223-6004 toll-free

ESKIMOS and HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGISTS

by Stan Pokras

"I'm CHIMO", says the opening line on a blue page with lots of messages, "and I want to be used for suggestions, complaints, ideas, etc... contact me in one of my message boxes... and don't forget to answer/ respond to my previous messages--just mention the number."

* * *

As the twice daily issue of "Chimo" newsletter was handed out I was pleased to realize that my efforts were paying off. I had asked the organizers of the annual meeting of the Association of Humanistic Psychologists to permit me to publish an interactive newsletter styled after a design by Anthony Judge (more on him later). The newsletter's main purpose was to publish messages from the conference goers.

People attending a conference are normally (and with some reason) treated by the conference merely as consumers of a product and often feel herded, or simply ignored. It seemed to me that this group of Humanistic Psychologists would be both sensitive to the problem and (since the conference was on networking) open to experimenting with new networking techniques. As the three days of the conference progressed, interest in "Chimo" developed and by the last issue people were truly pleased to obtain their copy - or truly angry to find that a message of theirs had been edited or dropped for some reason. I realized then that one of the most important and yet difficult aspects of this sort of service lies in the formation and maintenance of a consistent editorial policy. (Judge mentions some guide lines in his paper). Fortunately, only one or two really sour faces greeted me and hundreds of compliments helped to confirm that "Chimo" had been a job worth doing.

Conferences are always exciting places to meet lots of new people. Unfortunately,

most of the people you meet at conferences, while they may share some of your interests, are usually lost in the shuffle once you return home. Also, while you may be able to meet many people at a conference, there is little done at most conferences to help raise the probability that you will meet the one person most interesting to you.

Another aspect of this same problem is that most conferences are designed as forums for a few "speakers" or "workshop leaders" and the attendees are placed in a kind of communication limbo - forced to submit to the opinions of a few while remaining totally unable to form any sort of consensus among the many.

Anthony Judge described these and other problems in a paper published in the journal Transnational Associations in 1976 titled: "Meeting Failure and Participant Frustration" and then several years later (1980) he published in the same journal: "Participant Interaction Messaging", in which he described a simple system for providing conference participants with a feedback service. This idea became "Chimo" through the efforts and concerns of a network of networkers.

The word "chimo", according to the man in the "chimo" T-shirt, Mark Markley, is roughly translated from Eskimo as meaning: "welcome to our network". Mark was wearing his "chimo" T-shirt at breakfast the day before the conference - Jeff Stamps and I were haggling over the name for this newsletter (which at that point was both dull and non-descriptive). Jeff's partner Jessica nearly had to mediate between Jeff and me so that we wouldn't start throwing eggs at each other over this name business, when Jeff happened to ask Mark what "chimo" meant.

It turns out that the electronic conferencing system "EIES" has a newsletter called "Chimo" and someone had made up T-shirts. When Mark told us what "chimo" meant, he instantly became a breakfast table hero, ending once and for all the threat of a first strike egg attack with a hydrogen sulfide deterrent system - and the AHP interaction messaging system described by Anthony Judge, promoted by Jessica & Jeffrey, sanctioned by Fran Macy & Jill

SAY "CHIMO"

Marshall, supported by Bobbie Teich, Linda West and their staffs, named by Mark Markley and operated by me - became known as "Chimo".

There were seven issues of "Chimo" during the three days of the conference. The first was entirely written by me as an introduction to both the concept and the format. Each issue was printed on both sides of an 8 x 11 or 8 x 14 inch page (depending on the amount of material available) each on a different color stock. The messages were horizontally typed and separated from each other by a line of dashes, each had a space on the left for a message number, the writer's name (if available) and a reference, if the message referred to a previous message. Editorial policy was to limit each message to about 40 words and to try to remain relevant to the larger audience. Therefore, personal messages such as "Janet, meet me at the room at six" were not included. But when someone entered a message that read "Ram Das, I lust for your body - not your soul," snickers were heard all over the conference area.

Some people remarked on the conference conditions: "put everything in [one place], nobody can find the Gathering or the cocktail party..." while others provided readers with their observations: "There is not one shred of evidence that life should be taken seriously."

Many messages announced newly added events and organic restructuring of the activities: "Spiritual Network: Sufi chanting & dancing. We experienced joy, joy, joy! Saturday we will co-create with the ritual/arts network. Come join us as we open up our space."

Ideas for business ventures were proposed, complaints aired that pointed up the conference's deficiencies, and metaphysical pronouncements were made on the phases of the moon...

Some space was used for necessities like program changes and reports from the various network discussion groups, but, overall, the "Chimo" newsletter was made up of material from the conference participants; it became their vehicle and voice.

With more experience at using such a newsletter, conference-goers may learn to develop their "group mind" and the growing sense of "wholeness" obtained this way may help to make in-person conferences spiritually and intellectually richer experiences for all.

"CHIMO"

THE WHOLE AGAIN RESOURCE GUIDE

by Tim Ryan and Rae Jappinen

This is a guide book for a more healthy world. It covers health, community, public interest and socially conscious magazines, newsletters - and the organizations which create them. By supporting the work on this guide, Tim Ryan fulfills his personal need to know about and catalog even the tiniest of publications. He is one of those few publishers for whom his creation is its own reason for being. The Whole Again Resource Guide is more than an annotated catalog of 1500 alternative health and environmentally conscious publications. It is also a well indexed directory of organizations which are working to promote both personal and global survival.

This is a beautifully done book. From the sunshine flowing through the trees on the cover to the immaculately cross-referenced title, subject, and geographical indexes easily found in the back, the end user has been kept in mind on every page. The introduction provides some advice on how to send for sample copies of publications and the index even contains notes on the 1,000 or so groups which didn't respond to offers to list them, often mentioning if there is reason to believe that the publication in question is now defunct or if the post office returned mail with an "address unknown" stamp.

If you are looking for an opening into a new world - and "wellness", "psychic awareness" or "humanity" are terms that come into your mind, this book is where to start. It may just change your life.

Volumes One and Two are now available from SourceNet, PO Box 6767, Santa Barbara CA 93111

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THE NETWORKING INSTITUTE

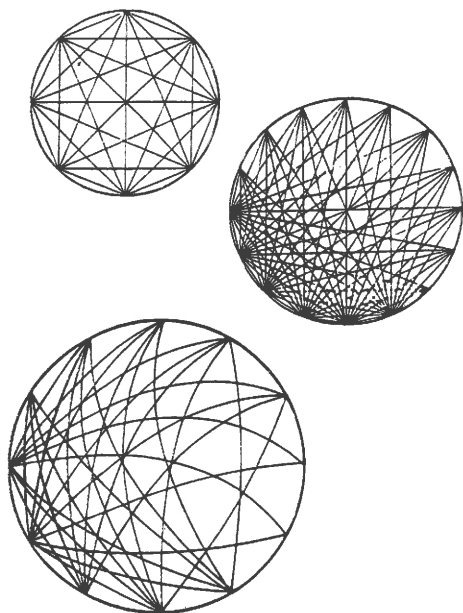
Jessica Lipnack and Jeff Stamps, authors of the book *Networking, A First Report and Directory* have created the Networking Institute and its newsletter *Networking Newsletter* as part of their continuing effort to understand and promote networks. The first issue of their newsletter had articles by R. Buckminster Fuller and Virginia Hine as well as lots of newsy items about people. A resources section had notes about Other Networks, TRANET, The Whole Again Resource Guide and others. A short version of the article by Stan Pokras about "Chimo" was published, beginning a healthy cooperation between our two newsletters.

The Newsletter of the Networking Institute has a literate, personal flavor. Items tend to focus on people, and what they are hoping to accomplish with their networking. Contact information is given in most of the items and a good number of letters are published. One correspondent, J. Gordon Lippincott, who has designed logos for many major U.S. corporations, was inspired to submit a number of ideas for a "networking" logo. Several of these were published in the second issue and appear here.

One of the world's most outspoken supporters of networking, Robert Muller, a secretary of the United Nations, is also a regular contributor to the *Networking Newsletter*. His poem "Decide to Network" appeared on the cover of issue #1.

The Institute has two levels of membership: General membership for \$25 which includes the newsletter, and Professional membership priced at \$100. The professional membership reflects Jeff and Jessica's intention to relate to the new industry of information workers. This category is still in flux, and a new set of 'member benefits' will be available in the near future. One of the options for professionals is an ongoing group information exchange which will take place both in a computer conference and via mail. This will open the door for direct communication between individual members. As of this writing, Stan Pokras will assist in this process. For further info write: The Networking Institute P.O. Box 66, West Newton MA 02165 (617) 965-3340.

THE WHOLE AGAIN RESOURCE GUIDE, Vol 2.
The second edition of "Whole Again" will carry on the standards of excellence found in the first (see page 9), adding another 1500 items to those already annotated in the first edition as well as providing more depth of coverage. This edition provides a compilation of the editors of the newsletters and publications indexed in both this and the first edition. This list will include the phone numbers of the editors as well as addresses, making "Whole Again, Vol 2" an exceptionally useful networking tool. Both editions of *Whole Again* are available for \$12.95 + \$1.50 Shipping, from SourceNet, PO Box 6767 Santa Barbara CA 93111



Spheres designed by
J. Gordon Lippincott

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS

Social Network Analysis, sometimes referred to as "Structural Analysis," is a fairly recent interdisciplinary development with ties to the fields of anthropology, sociology, mathematics and other social and human sciences. One journal and one "bulletin" are published by the proponents of this discipline.

Most of the material in the journal *Social Networks* is highly technical, dealing with the processes of collecting data about human networks and with the nuts and bolts of finding and using mathematical relationships which are applicable to the understanding of social phenomena.

The bulletin, *Connections*, is published independently but in cooperation with *Social Networks* by a group led by Barry Wellman at the University of Toronto. Now in its seventh year, *Connections* is a source of information about all aspects of network studies. In a fairly informal format, *Connections* publishes bibliographic articles, book reviews, papers and literature reviews. Although the study of social networks is looked upon as a mathematical field, *Connections* generally publishes articles that summarize the observations of many and present a synthesis of ideas. Some contain ideas which can help grass roots "networkers" gain insight towards applying network concepts to real life problems.

Two papers in particular are worth mentioning. The first of these is Mark Granovetter's "Strength of Weak Ties" (vol 5, no 2) which states that "Through weak ties, the individual has access to information and opportunity beyond that which his immediate circle of strong ties could afford him. It is shown...that where weak ties cannot flourish, individuals are forced to sustain all strong ties or none at all -- and that both situations are experienced as unpleasant." Granovetter goes on to describe a number of circumstances in which acquaintances (as differentiated from close friends) may be a very important part of the social structure.

Jacqueline Scherer's "The Function Of Social Networks: An Exercise In Terse Conclusions" (vol VI, no 3) consists of nearly 200 sentences (terse conclusions) culled from nearly 150 papers which answer such questions as: "what is the utility of networks" and "what is the effect of networks". The answers are diverse and occasionally surprising. Here are a few:

NETWORKS CAN MAKE URBAN VARIETY A SOURCE OF STRENGTH, NOT CHAOS.

POWER IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF POSITION IN NETWORK STRUCTURE.

NETWORKS ARE AN INDICATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH.

TIES APPEAR MOST ACTIVE WHEN THEY SERVE TO ORGANIZE RESOURCES.

NETWORKS OF DURABLE LINKS ARE USUALLY CLOSE KNIT AND RECIPROCAL.

Not all of the statements quoted present a positive view of networks.

NETWORKS CAN UPHOLD DEVIANT VALUES AND BE DISRUPTIVE.

NETWORKS CAN BE INSTRUMENTS OF CONTROL AND MANIPULATION AS IN INTERLOCKING (CORPORATE) DIRECTORATES.

These statements are all followed by a reference to the paper from which they were deduced.

Using the guidelines in Scherer's article on the "Weak ties" article by Granovetter produced the sentence:

INFORMATION PASSED THROUGH WEAK TIES REACHES MORE PEOPLE.

Subscriptions to *Social Networks* and *Connections* are \$44 for both or \$12 for *Connections* alone, from: INSNA, 455 Spadina Ave, Toronto M5S 1A1 Ontario, CANADA (416) 978-3930

PUSH-BUTTON ADVENTURES IN AMERICA

... Personal Computer Networking

One of my great delights as a child was listening to an all-band radio for voices from afar. Unfortunately, I speak only English, and never learned Morse Code, so my adventures were limited to English language broadcasts directed at North America by foreign agencies like the BBC and Radio Moscow.

These days I do my exploring by telephone, using my computer as a terminal. The objects of my interest are small computer systems set up privately by amateur computerists for the exchange of messages, files of programs, or just simply for conversation. Of course, most of these systems can't support more than one caller at a time, so people exchange messages and hold discussions by leaving comments in a public file called a "bulletin board", or in some cases, a "conference tree."

I'm looking for signs that these free public systems are helping people to discover each other again. Our society has had a long love affair with the television and many people don't seem to have much interest in exchanging with other people either in controversy or conversation.

Most of the material I find is technical or quasi-technical. People tend to use their computer to talk about computers with other computerists. The young seem to predominate in numbers, but they have the least to say. However, there are some systems which support topics besides computers, where the people don't seem to be inhibited about revealing what's on their mind. When I find one of these, I tend to go back and follow some of the conversations. Occasionally, I join in myself.

On one system in California, I discovered an exchange of messages on the nuclear freeze issue. One message there patiently explained the pro's and cons of treaties in response to the previous note proclaiming the wonders of the "freeze". It was signed with what appeared to be the real name of the author and it was responded to in turn with just as much maturity.

Another system, in Oregon, has a conversation on social concerns called the "Portland Conversation." These people are all invited by the system's owners and represent a cross section of the area's non-profit community.

In New York City, the emphasis seems to be on literature and the arts, as well as philosophy. The system I call there has more messages per day than others, as seems fitting for a place as active as the Big Apple.

Bulletin boards are fairly inexpensive to set up (from about \$2,000 and up), nearly anyone with the motivation can acquire and learn to operate one. The cost of buying a terminal with which to access bulletin boards starts at just \$100, but rises rapidly to about \$2,000. At this point there are nearly 500 of these systems operating across the country, covering a very wide range of topics. This diversity results from the very strong instinct we Americans have for forming clubs and organizations. After a newsletter, a computer bulletin board is a natural medium for special interest groups.

For more background on computer telecommunications, look for Alfred Glossbrenner's *The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications* from St. Martin's Press. The *Computer Phone Book*, by Mike Cane (from Plume) contains short descriptions and the phone numbers of over 400 systems, most of which were actually called and carefully reviewed by the author. There are also newsletters and magazines available for those who really like to keep up. PLUMB (\$20/ year from Riverside Data Inc, P.O. Box 300, Harrods Creek KY 40027) is a newsletter which covers games, employment, software pirating, sexually oriented systems and tries to give readers background on whatever is new in small systems. For news about overall developments in computer communications, the people who run the giant consumer-oriented system, Compuserve, publish a glossy magazine called *Online Today* which is free to Compuserve subscribers. Call Compuserve at 1-800-848-8199 for more info.

To start out in communications with your own terminal, try to find a local bulletin board to practice on. Your dealer should know of a users group which can supply phone numbers. Most bulletin boards have lists of other bulletin boards, so when you find one, you will be able to find them all. It's an adventure which is just beginning, an arm-chair adventure, which may change America as much, or perhaps more, than has the invention of the telephone.

Stan Pokras

COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION FILING SYSTEM

...a relatively cheap computerized information filing system for information junkies and other individuals who have to store lots of newspaper, magazine, journal, digest articles and various other bits of data such as handwritten notes and stuff...

By Scott Parker

This system allows one to crossfile and subfile with maximum cost-effectiveness and allows the operator maximum use of a copy machine's ability by using legal size file cards.

Materials needed:

A: a computer with magnetic disk storage hardware and software designed to produce and locate filing headers (filing system software);

B: legal size cards or sheets (I use construction paper) and a legal size three-ring binder.

Step 1: Gather newspaper, magazine, journal articles, and written notes.....

Scotch-tape these articles to file cards (to allow future removal) and assign each entry its own letter. Each file sheet also has its own number. On sheet 1, the first article will be assigned the label of 1A..... the next article 1B, and so on.

If so desired you could specialize each sheet, sheet 1 for example could be reserved for electronics, hydraulics or some facet of medical research. Sheet 2 for animal disease, etc.

Step 2: Using the system: Suppose a particular article is about skin cancer in a certain species of African mole, you wouldn't know whether to store this information under moles, Mammals, CHORDATA, Vertebrata, Insectivora, Talpidae, skin, cancer, disease, medicine, or what! As you can see, filing can be a tremendous headache, and the only viable method is to file the article under all these headings.

Now this is done every day by typing the entire article and storing it on a magnetic computer storage medium. This takes too much typing time and expensive storage space for the normal individual's needs. Whenever you tape a new addition to your file card, automatically enter your key words into your computer program. Your key words would, of course, be all the words I previously mentioned in describing the mole.

Keep all your file cards in a box or file cabinet in proper numerical order.

Let's take a sample database search: I first load my database management system into the computer: the computer will ask me what I am searching for. I respond with the keywords cancer and moles. The computer will then present on screen: SEE 1A. This will tell us to pull sheet 1 from our files and locate article A. Until read/ write optical disks are available on the consumer level, this is the most efficient way to store and retrieve article-length information I can think of.

If anyone knows of a better way to do this please contact Scott Parker, P.O. Box 94, Beaumont, Texas 77704.

THE WINGED MERCURY MISSIVE

Gary Smith, sometimes known as Mercury, or as that "networker in the Silver Van" stopped here in Philadelphia last November for a week-long visit.

Gary's travelling began after several years of intense work during which he put aside enough money to keep his frugal lifestyle going indefinitely. He maintains contact with his many friends and travel acquaintances by having his family forward mail and take phone messages. His once a week phone calls home to mom make it possible for his friends to locate this roving network resource person within a reasonable amount of time.

In his travels, Gary visits with "new age" people working on peace, health, spiritual and educational issues, whose energies are helping to create a future world which is both sustainable and vital.



Here Gary Smith sits at the keyboard of an Apple computer. <<<PHOTO>>>

Each morning, Gary takes time to write in his diary: he keeps notes on the conversations he's had and his feelings about his experiences. These notes then become the source material for a unique sporadic newsletter, *The Winged Mercury Missive*. The Missive is written as a running narrative, describing the people Gary visits and their work or interests. Over 60 people are footnoted and their addresses listed at the end of the 10 page current issue.

Since most of the people to whom he sends these occasional missives are friends of his, Gary usually leaves a bit of blank

space on the last page for a personal note. If you'd like to get to know Gary and would enjoy following the voyages of the Silver Van, write to him and include something for postage & printing. Subscriptions are \$5.

WINGED MERCURY NETWORKING
c/o 6020 Piedmont Place
Lynchburg VA 24502

OMNIQUEST

Using an array of information handling, research and networking techniques, OmniQuest, a "finding" service operated by Vicki Mechner in Chappaqua, New York, helps its clients locate people, places and things. OmniQuest's brochures unabashedly state the importance of their clients' own information and resources to the success of the service: "The main way you help us is by guiding us through the intricacies of your professions when we call on you on behalf of other clients who seek 'whatever' in your bailiwick..." Information about clients' hobbies, collected attic 'treasures', and previous careers all prove useful aids to OmniQuest searchers. Recommendations concerning service and goods suppliers of unusual quality or originality help to turn each individual's contacts into community resources.

Many requests are handled in this way: "In the initial conversation, the need is discussed in detail. What attempts have already been made to find the item/service? To what extent can specifications be modified? What is the budget and timetable? And so forth. We then do a free cost analysis and quote a fee."

In performing its searches, OmniQuest uses its own name and keeps the client out of the picture. It locates potential resources and provides the client with the leads. The client then makes its own arrangements since OmniQuest doesn't get involved in negotiations of terms between client and resource. For more information contact:

OMNIQUEST, Box 15
Chappaqua NY 10514 (914) 238-9646

PUBLIC INTEREST COMPUTER ASSOCIATION

While it advocates the use of computers by non-profit groups (and offers a variety of training programs and seminars) PICA is sensitive to issues surrounding computer use which are both ignored and down-played by most ordinary "computer interest groups" (CIGs).

PICA publishes NEXUS, "The journal for microcomputer users in the public interest community." The current 16 page Jan/ Feb 84 issue contains an excellent article on "Appropriate Computing" by Arthur Fink, a New England based consultant who has spent many years with the American Friends Service Committee. "We need to put the computer in its place," he states... "The exciting power of computer technology can blind us to the kinds of problems computers can't help us solve, and to the new problems computers have created that society hasn't yet solved."

The two page article contains three dangers posed especially by microcomputers as well as Arthur's sixteen Rules Of Appropriate Computing. Rule number one states: "The computer application should serve ends that would have been appropriate and desirable by any relevant pragmatic, social, ethical, or moral criteria without the computer."

Another article in this issue, "The Computer In Your Future" by Joseph Weizenbaum, is about "artificial intelligence". One comment which stands out concerns the possible use of computers as "intelligent newspapers [which] will know the way you feel and behave accordingly." Won't it be nice never to read about anything that you don't like?

Currently PICA members in the DC area have user groups for the Kaypro, Televideo, and dBase II. PICA also has been actively working with (and networking with) non-profit computer consultants. A three day meeting sponsored by PICA in December brought together about 30 of the nation's leading non-profit consultants and writers. Individual memberships in PICA are \$15/yr

PICA, 122 Maryland Ave, NE
Washington DC 20002 (202) 544-4171.
Write Arthur Fink at:
Ctr. for Appropriate Computing, Box 614
Prince St., Wilton NH 03086.

THE ULTIMATE VEHICLE FAMILY

Another newsletter which has come our way from a travel home is from a new age oriented family. These folks travel as a group attending gatherings, visiting friends and presenting their views. Along the road they collect information and materials for an occasional newsletter. Their July 1983 issue was 16 pages and contained an outline of their travels, notes on what groups and gatherings they attended as well as five or so pages of short reviews about projects and publications. They mentioned the magazine/project *In Context*, which publishes resources on building a sustainable future, two new books on communities, and a coalition of west coast communities known as the Earth Community Network among other items on appropriate technology, "new age" consciousness and sexuality. A number of pages were devoted to their personal writing, philosophy, insight and some comments from TD the tuned-in toad:



The U.V. Family mentioned no "subscription" price for their newsletter, instead they asked readers to write to them if they found the newsletter of value. If so, they will put you on the list for the next one.

U.V. FAMILY, 225789 Good Sam
Box 404, Agoura CA 91301

THE RANGE & SCOPE OF NETWORKS

part 1:

SMALL
BUSINESS

by James H. Gunn



Initial curiosity about the term "networks" and "networking" led me to research the concept of networks and its field. This in turn led to the discovery of a quantity of material about this field as given in newsletters, newspaper stories, articles, reports, and books; material which this column will sample and review.

Essentially, a network is lines of communication connecting a set of points, the focus here will be on human interaction in the communication process over and above any network of media or electronic devices used by people.

SMALL BUSINESSES

In Denver Colorado, Dan Densmore developed *Densmore Discoveries* [1], which he states is the first "life-focused universal referral network." He connects people, services, products, facilities, opportunities, and life-appropriate technologies, for a fee that pays for the referral services. Denver also holds the Denver Open Network which describes itself as a quest-facilitator, a tool that aids human beings in furthering their personal search, for beauty in their lives or a better way of making a living. Pat Wagner & Leif Smith describe the organization which assists the open network, *Network Resources, Inc* [2], as a focused network which tries to generate and support networks and network processes which will enhance the well being of people who have friendly questions to ask about anything.

Marion Behr and Wendy Lazar knew the difficulties of combining motherhood and work, so they started the first national

womens' home-business network. After hearing from thousands of women nationwide, they founded the National Alliance of Home-based Businesswomen and created a practical network for exchanging information. Local chapters began to form, and a book has been published: *Women Working Home: A Homebased Business Guide and Directory* [3].

Two young women in San Francisco started a firm, *Stowens and Gold* [4], which provides access to unusual services, including the *Business Conspiracy*, a network for business people, offering monthly networking dinners; one of their aims is to offer business contacts. They offer a reduced membership rate to *Epicurean Adventures*, an activities network for people interested in attending exciting events, such as sailing, racing and parties; and they offer a special rate for first-year membership in the *Frog Prince Conspiracy*, a network for single men and women, which recently opened its roles to couples too.

A formal network in San Francisco and the Bay Area for small business people who share common values, which may not follow traditional business policies, is *Briarpatch* [5]. In order to join this network, a person must not be working primarily to make money; they must make the business books and records open to the public, and be willing to share resources of people and skills. *Briarpatch* formed in 1973 and in 1979 had approximately 250 business members. *Briarpatch* is not related to the network for small business persons in England; there, no one over 4'6" is allowed to join.

* * *

1. Densmore Discoveries, P.O. Box 18-X, Denver CO 80218
2. Network Resources, P.O. Box 18666, Denver CO 80218
3. Women Working Home Press, P.O. Box 237, Norwood NJ 07648
4. Stowens & Gold, 420 Taylor St., San Francisco CA 94102
5. Briarpatch, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco CA 94102

CHATTING VIA COMPUTER

by Ed Ricchezza

The Source, Delphi, CompuServe are computer systems which serve the public with relatively low cost evening communication rates. In the following article, Ed Ricchezza describes "chat" and "conference" which permit two or more people to type to each other, in a conversational manner, over the telephone using home computer terminals. -- SP

For the benefit of those of you who may not be familiar with *The Source*, one of its features is "CHAT." Which is just what it implies: a chat between two persons. This contrasts to the CB type features on *CompuServe* and *Delphi* in that the conversation is limited to two persons while on the others, any number may participate. Some prefer one type over the other. I prefer neither. But once in a while I do engage in a CHAT (*Source*) or CONFERENCE (*Delphi*) just to keep my hand in.

This particular piece is about CHAT and describes two of my experiences on it. A CHAT may originate in two ways:

- 1) By a pre-arranged date and time with a friend; or
- 2) By selecting an ID at random from the ONLINE. This latter shows all IDs online at that time.

I believe I hold the record for a combination of longest/shortest distances. Others may have chatted with some one farther away but I don't believe I have an equal for a combo of the longest and shortest.

I was busy one evening reading my *Source* mail when I got this CHAT interrupt:

"Hi/ I'm Laurie in Philly. Want to CHAT?"

Usually I ignore such requests and later send an apology but since I am also a Philadelphian, I was intrigued and responded:

"Hi Laurie. I'm in Phila also. In center city, at 18th and Walnut Sts." to which came the reply: "This is unreal. I'm at Broad & Locust Sts."

This is a scant five blocks away. Since we

were that close we continued by direct modem rather than thru *Source*. No use paying connect time when we could talk for free.

Well, summing: Laurie visited us and we saw each other several times before she moved away from the neighborhood.

Another time, in responding to a CHAT, the caller said he was from "Turbridge." Since I had never heard of Turbridge, I inquired what state it was in. Came the reply: "No state, really. Turbridge is in Kent, England."

That was the short and the long of that one. The following is on the humorous side - but true.

One of my regular correspondents was a young woman from Chicago. We exchanged what are known as five-liners - brief notes full of witticisms, light patter, etc. Also, Liz (a fictitious name) was quite a lively gal and quite popular with the guys. So one time I thought I would play a little joke on Liz. For continuous evenings I checked ONLINE until I spotted her ID (fictitious, XXX000). So I instituted a CHAT request:

"CHAT XXX000"

I received the *Source* prompt:

"XXX000 is CHATTING with XYZ123. Do you want to interrupt?"

(This "Do you want to interrupt" option has since been discontinued)

Decorum requires the originator to reply "No" and graciously exit. However, in my case this is exactly what I wanted. I did not want to CHAT with Liz; I wanted the ID

CONT'D →

Ed Ricchezza is a regular contributor to The Data Bus, the newsletter of the Philadelphia Area Computer Society. This article originally appeared in The Data Bus.

CHATTING (continued from previous page)

of the guy she was CHATTING with. So I instituted:

"CHAT XYZ123" knowing what I would receive which was:

"XYZ123 is CHATTING with XXX000. Do you want to interrupt?"

Of course, I replied "Yes" and on the command "Enter", I entered:

"Listen, Buddy boy. I'm Liz's boy friend in Phila so before you make any dates with Liz, be sure to check with me."

I got no reply which was not unexpected. So after a few minutes, I instituted another request. This time I added:

"OK. Last warning. I have Mafia connections and I can get NASTY - in fact, VERY NASTY."

Again, no reply. But XYZ123 apparently told Liz that some jerk TCU777 (me) kept interrupting. Of course, Liz recognized my ID so after a few more minutes I got this shocker from Liz:

"For Cripe's sake, Ed. Will you get the hell off the line? This is my girl friend Betty I'm talking to."

Quietly I folded my tent. (I might add that instead of "Cripe's", Liz was somewhat more explicit).

I have other interesting experiences, both on Source and Delphi which I'll recount at a later date.

So long for now - and remember: Keep a spring in your step and a song in your heart!

[Ed]

THE COMPUTER PHONE BOOK

By Mike Cane

This book is probably the first of its kind, but certainly not the last. It describes the vast array of computers you can call on the phone with your own terminal or small computer. (For more background on these systems, see "Push-button Adventures in America" on page 12).

In The Computer Phone Book, Mike Cane has written a complete guide to using computer communications. People new to communication can begin to feel at home with communication terms like Parity, Baud rate and duplex; as well as some of the most widely used system terms, such as database, sysops, connect-time, and information utility.

The descriptions of over 400 small and large computer systems make this book truly stand out from the crowd. The author spent hundreds of hours calling and reviewing systems throughout the country so you can find computer systems which may fit your personal interests. The large (national) systems are listed along with their rates, hours and major topics (which often require several pages to list). The smaller (local) systems are all given the same treatment as the large ones, naturally their listings are shorter but the author gives his personal impression of many of them, which adds to the flavor of the book. (Look for his comments on the "matchmaking" systems.)

The book has an appendix on bulletin board system "help" files, the place to look when you want to know what the commands mean! It also has a series of special indexes. Systems are indexed by location, the kinds of software they contain, and speed. The most useful index guides readers to the special interests covered by each system, interests such as: specific machines, programs, matchmaking, law, alternate energy, jokes, ham radio, movies, fiction, arms control, real estate, writing...etc.

If you are thinking about computer communications, you may find the Computer Phone Book very handy indeed! \$9.95 at your bookstore or from the Publisher: Plume / NAL.

Small world

is a file of messages kept by the Media Project both as a service to our readers and as an example of a stored message system which facilitates networking. All messages are kept on file for a year and appear in this newsletter at least once. (see the yellow form enclosed)

FREE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS - We parents want to give so much to our children. We would like to see our kids interested, content, and involved. There are many ways to go about offering fun and enriching experiences. You can easily spend lots of money on commercially made materials. Or you can look for materials that are offered free to the public. One of the things I do best is find free materials that motivate and challenge kids of all ages. These resources include colorful posters, games, films, readings, kits, video, information packets, and much more. What I have to share are descriptions and addresses of loads of free materials. I need to request \$3.50 to cover expenses. Write to: Michele Wagnan Sokoloff, FreEd. 502 Woodside Ave Narberth PA 19072

JAZZ MUSICIANS I am looking for beginning-intermediate level jazz musicians to practice with. I play guitar and want to improve my skills and have fun with other players. I live in W. Philly. Richard Eastland, 5023 Cedar Ave., Phila PA 19143. 472-7131.

MAIL ART NETWORKER I am interested in corresponding with other mail artists. The medium I work with is collage (newsprint, photos, rubber stamps). I respond best to surrealism, dada and political art/letter bombs. Ron Sakolsky, Fools Paradise, Pawnee, IL 62558, 217-498-8497.

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SUNDARA, a national education, research and networking organization, is calling for the donation of farmland to develop cooperative communities using the community land trust legal/organizational model. Membership is free to all people who feel attunement to the universal principles of love, peace, ahimsa/nonviolence, cooperation, freedom, and humanitarian service. People are most welcome to write to us describing their work and activities and join with our network. We have members in five nations and 18 states. We are calling for the donation of farmland to assist people to return to more harmonious lifestyles, to establish education, research, and services centers.

Sundara operates a free, cooperative networking service in Madison called Northern Lights Networking. People who are traveling through Madison are welcome to come by for help in terms of housing, food, and information. Take care and drop us a note soon to let us know what work you are doing. We will answer all correspondence. Shalom. David Peltier, Coordinator. SUNDARA 408 W. Gorham St. Madison, WI 53703

NEW ENGLAND NETWORK OF LIGHT DIRECTORY listing 64 new age communities, ashrams, cooperative businesses, wholistic health centers, etc., \$3.50 (plus \$1.00 postage) from: Sirius Community, PO Box 388-0, Amherst, MA 01004.

WELLNESS ASSN. OF THE PHILADELPHIA AREA (WAPA) Non-profit assn. of holistic health/new age practitioners/teachers. Lectures, workshops, art & entertainment, health foods, lobbying, insurance, resource center. Volunteer opportunities. Networking locally, regionally & nationally. Personal communications developing wellness environment for community. Arn H. Specter - WAPA, 3715 Baring St., Phila, PA 19104 (215) 222-2731

Small world

EUROPE-FEEDBACK I am developing an **Open Network/Small World** office in London to satisfy all your needs in communications for a nominal finder's fee, between U.S.A.-Europe - including translation serv. Fr. Ger. Sp. Ital. Also I need partners as entrepreneurs with plenty of savvy, craft skills. Computerists welcome too. B. Leon Gaon, 4 Hawkins House, Dolphin Sq., London SW1, ENGLAND.

PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION Do you have a strong desire to transform your life? . . . and are no longer just hoping it will happen, but are ready to do something to effect the needed changes with the expertise of someone highly knowledgeable and capable who can offer the special individualized attention you need? For fees or other information contact: Paul Crockett, P. O. Box 1271, Pahump, NV 89041. Mr. Crockett is also available for speaking engagements and seminars or workshops.

REX RESEARCH 'InFolios' Comprehensive collections of high-quality information, guaranteed to satisfy your need to know about elegant, unconventional technologies, old and new. These photocopy files of news items, journal reports, patents, manuscripts and other primary data are available as a unique service to scientists, inventors, teachers and students seeking the facts about intriguing discoveries that deserve further research and development. The REX RESEARCH catalog is a unique document in itself, listing 130 inventors and topics with concise descriptions and numerous illustrations. Topic groups include: Alchemy, Anti-Gravity, Automobile Tech., Airplanes, Biomedical, Chemistry, Electricity & Magnetism, Light, Mechanical Devices, Time, Vortex Tech., & Water. Customized files, retrieval and consulting services also are available. To receive our catalog, send \$1 to: REX RESEARCH, P. O. BOX 1258, BERKELEY, CA 94704. Telephone (415) 843-1950. Please mention 'Other Networks' when you inquire; we'll send you a surprise.

It has been my intention (since 1980) to make **SMALL WORLD** into a cooperative business. The idea would permit many independent network folks to have their own local resources and "share" material which would be of interest to a wider group. This idea is still churning over. The following messages from the Open Network via **Network Resources** represents a step towards some future time when national and international cooperative network businesses help their clients by exchanging information among themselves. Thank you for dreaming with me. --SP

For more information about the OPEN NETWORK and the helpful services of **Network Resources** write:

NETWORK RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 18666
Denver CO 80218

JOKE-NETWORK I collect the world's best - and worst - jokes; maybe a joke network could be formed here? Contact: VALERIE LIPOM, 1645 W. Baseline Road #2096, Mesa, AZ 85202.

GERMAN WHOLE EARTH CATALOG Access to Tools - Think Globally, Act Locally Since I've been in Sausalito with the CQ people - maybe since I read CQ (1975) I am obsessed by the idea to produce something like that for the 'old world', which is overloaded with negativity - especially in its countercultures . . . Now I started working on WEC for the German-speaking countries - found a few excited people - I am still looking for a publisher: it will cost - only the pure production - 100.000,-DM. Looking for co-workers who like the idea of producing a catalog on information about useful information for "individuals to conduct their own education, find their own inspiration, shape their own environment and share the adventure with whoever is interested. Tools that aid this process are sought and promoted by" (Stewart Brand) 'the German Whole Earth Catalog'. Contact: ANSELM und MARUSA KRESE WEIDNER, Reutlingerstrasse 2, Tublingen D 7400, West Germany; 07071-35310.

METRO-FARM is an educational and developmental non-profit organization for the purpose of establishing resource exchange linkages between the urban Denver area and its close-in rural areas. Metro-Farm is primarily concerned with developing local food production, distribution and consumption. Our goal is to enable people to save money, consume high-quality, healthful food and learn to cooperate and have fun with others. Contact: CHRIS CONKLIN, 700 Washington #704, Denver, CO 80203; 837-9392.

THE INDEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT is a national effort supported by a federal grant, to encourage people and organizations doing serious intellectual work outside academe. The Project champions this concept on the national level, has published two books, convened a national conference on it, and helps local groups to form and function. Contact: Ronald Gross, Director, THE INDEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT, 17 Myrtle Drive, Great Neck, NY 11021; (516) 487-0235.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR'S HANDBOOK "It is time to shatter the myth that the university has a monopoly on the production of knowledge," said Alvin Toffler (*Future Shock*, *The Third Wave* about our *Independent Scholar's Handbook*. "This book portrays how independent writers, thinkers, researchers, and scholars are making striking, creative contributions to our understanding of the world around us. . . . and how each of us can play an exhilarating role in that process." Contact: See above.

THE LIFELONG LEARNER, REVIEWED BY PAT WAGNER A Book for the Adult Learner and Networker --- This is an outstanding book by Ron Gross on the independent scholar and perhaps the best book available on the psychology of good networking - Pat Wagner. Contact: Your Library.

DENVER INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS ROUNDTABLE This is the best way to communicate with the Project if you are in Denver. See their entry in Open Network. Contact: SUSAN SPRAGG: (303) 321-3597.

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION EXCHANGE SERVICES TIES is a research and publishing organization dedicated to the exchange of information on the use of new information and communications technologies in nonprofit organizations. We publish an up-to-date primer (very elementary level) with exclusive bibliography (\$7.00) and will begin to publish a bi-monthly newsletter in mid-1984.

We seek information on innovative applications of computers, audio and video teleconferencing, computer networking, database development and information retrieval, videotex, teletext, etc., among nonprofit organizations. We would also like to learn about new publications, newsletters, associations and conferences related to nonprofit technology. Contact: Wallys W. Conhaim TIES - Technology Information Exchange Services, P.O. Box 10268, Minneapolis, MN 55440; (612) 374-9455.

BETTER ANSWERS TO OPEN NETWORK OPEN QUESTIONS Asking better questions.

'At the Office for Open Network we say as little as possible about quest itself, and instead find out what it is that the person who is with us cares about, finds interesting, and wants to do. Then we try to be useful.'

- Leif Smith

Reading this note, I am struck by how unoriginal, prosaic, vague are my answers to such questions! Think of outcomes, planned and surprising, rather than simply responding to the question at level one. Think of those deep dark hopeful thoughts I wouldn't think of telling others! Think of the love-wishes I have for the world, which I have learned to be embarrassed or critical of, or unable to express because I fear I am selfish and ungenerous! Who (what kind of people) would I like to meet? How would I like to be surprised/astounded? Who would I like to be, and am I that person already (a bit? a lot?); if so, how might I communicate that self to an unsuspecting universe? Contact: GREG GRUBBS, 777 S. Pearl, Denver, CO 80209; 778-0559.

ATTENTION all "Resource Notes" users:
Please always mention OTHER NETWORKS when writing for
sample copies or subscriptions. Our reputation as a
resource for those who send us material depends upon
your response.

thanks,
STAN

Resources

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Write for their beautiful & informative FREE catalog: Animal Town Game Co, Box 2002
Santa Barbara CA 93120

AT THE CROSSROADS is a 10,000 word document developed by a group called the Communications Era Task Force, working in close association with futurist and social thinker, Robert Theobald. The authors hope that AT THE CROSSROADS will have a significant impact on issues of national concern and create links among people who support their view that now is a time for "fundamental change." Copies of AT THE CROSSROADS are \$2.50 from: CETF, Box 3623
Spokane WA 99220.

THE THIRD SECTOR is a newsletter published by Colorado's Technical Assistance Center, a nonprofit management support organization. The Spring 1982 issue contained an article on volunteer turnover and one on tax issues of importance to nonprofits. It also announced a schedule of meetings and presented three book reviews. For current information, write:
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER, Suite 316 245 Columbine St, Denver CO 80206

BASIS - CONTACT is a free appropriate Technology newsletter from Belgium. An English language edition was published in 1983 in which the editors requested information and contacts from around the world. They are interested in increasing health and rural development support for non-literate in 3rd world countries through networking and the exchange of techniques and conceptual tools in agriculture, medicine, energy, education, etc.
SEBOD - BASIS CONTACT - H.V. Peenestr. 50 B-9910 GENT (Mariakerke) BELGIUM

The BEAUTIFUL FOOD GARDEN (ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ATTRACTIVE FOOD PLANTS) by Kate Rogers Gessert, is a book for gardeners who are ready to move the garden out of that little patch in the back. Ideas are presented which will help people to add function to a decorative landscape and beauty to a vegetable garden. In three parts, the author presents her rational for beautiful food gardens, then an encyclopedia of useful information on those vegetables, nuts and fruits she has tested and found interesting, and a resource section with purchasing info and a bibliography. Available in book stores, libraries or from the publisher: Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.

SUCCESSFUL WOMAN, a monthly 16 page publication of The American Society of Professional and Executive Women, provides useful advice, ideas and tips for the management of time, people and resources. Most of the material would be useful to managers or business people of either sex, but topics such as feminist studies and the special problems of women entering a previously male dominated area are given some room.
Subscriptions are \$42 / year. from:
ASPEW, 1511 Walnut St.
Phila PA 19102

NEW TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE CENTER "Helping Chicago-area Nonprofit Organizations Use Information Effectively", this project is affiliated with Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Project Director, Stephen Andrews, is both cautious about applying computer technology to non-profits and convinced that it is inevitable that these organizations adopt appropriate uses for new technology. The key, he feels, lies in seeking out what is truly appropriate. NTRC, 57th Street and Lake Shore Dr. Chicago IL 60637 (312) 684-1414

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS AT HOME is a newsletter for home based entrepreneurs. It covers issues like zoning, taxes, insurance, public relations, case histories of particular businesses and the history of Cottage Industry. Subscriptions are \$24 for six issues. P.O. Box 14850, Chicago IL 60614

Media Network's INFORMATION CENTER is a clearing house for information on films, videotapes and slide shows on a wide range of social issues - including disarmament, military policy and military spending. Accessible by phone or mail, the Center provides information on specific titles as well as programming ideas and contacts with others who have media on the same themes.

They publish a "Guide to Disarmament Media" for \$1. Write to MEDIA NETWORK, 208 W. 13th Street, New York NY 10011, (212) 620-0877

ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX

"The Alternative Press Index is a quarterly subject index (begun in 1969) to alternative and radical publications. It is a reference guide to periodicals that chronicle, and in themselves are part of, movements for social change." Subscriptions are \$25 /year for individuals and movement groups, more for institutions. Write for a free sample and a free list of Alternative Periodicals.

Alternative Press Center
Box 7229, Baltimore MD 21218
(301) 243-2471

TUI is a densely printed, 4 - 10 page monthly newsletter for people interested in the 'I Ching'. Much of its content is gathered by the editor, Alan Taplow, from reader contributions. The readers are mostly people who have had some previous contact or correspondence with Alan and he looks upon TUI as a continuation of his friendship with them. The March 1984 issue contains two bibliographies compiled by Tui correspondents. Additional annotations are requested and updated bibliographies will be published periodically. Annual donation: \$5
Alan Taplow, 181 Foch Ave
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

NEW ENGLAND DISARMAMENT EVENTS CALENDAR A mimeographed newsletter and events sheet covering both New England events and national news, published 22 times a year. Subscriptions are \$12/yr from: DISARMAMENT ACTION NETWORK, 11 Garden St Cambridge MA 02138

Summer Institute for Democratic Alternatives

Sponsored by Tranet, Maine Common Cause and the Univ of Maine at Augusta, the Institute is a month long "camp" from July 15 to Aug 15 near Augusta Maine where anyone can offer or take a course or participate in a seminar or discussion for a minimal entrance fee. Foraal courses will include guest lectures by Ivan Illich, John Ohliger, Bill Ellis, John McKnight and others and will cover issues in education, organizing and non-violence. The Maine Chapter of Common Cause will sponsor a one day conference on July 28. Tranet, a transnational appropriate technology network is inviting its members from many third world countries to attend the institute. Results of this gathering will be compiled into book form for publication. For more info: Susan Hunt, West Ripley Publications
Rt. 3, Box 650
Dexter ME 04930

BLACK BART is the nearest thing there is to a 60's sub-culture "fan-zine". Published occasionally, in mimeo, with gusto - BB is literate, critical, self-critical, supportive and enlightening. Challenging society's values in differing ways from one page to the next, editor / writer / publisher Irv Thomas takes his readers on a personal tour of the philosophic roots of the new age. No specific fee, contributions requested
Black Bart, Box 48, Canyon CA 94516

RE:SOURCE is a 16 page tabloid quarterly of environmental news. A host of highly involved regional grass roots writers fill the pages with news of events and issues throughout the country. Most of the items include contact information for the author and the appropriate environmental organizations in the area. Authors Hazel Henderson and Jeremy Rifkin both had short articles in the Spring 1983 issue which also featured an extensive resource bibliography. A free environmental "bulletin board" column for notices of under 75 words open to any news of environmental concern seems to be a regular feature. Subscriptions are \$12/ year for individuals. From: THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE 1346 Connecticut Ave NW Washington DC 20036

COMMUNICATION YEARBOOK is an annual review published for the International Communication Association. It "...covers everything from marital communication to social networks to the new media technologies..." \$45 from SAGE PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 5024 Beverly Hills CA 90210

WORLD FOOD ASSEMBLY 1984 (WFA84)

"Grass-root food experts from all parts of the earth will meet in Rome Nov 12 to 20 to examine food projects, programs and policies and to make recommendations to U.N. and other governmental agencies" For more info:
TRANET, PO Box 567
Rangely ME 04970 (207) 864-2252 or
Inst of Food & Dev.
255 Mission St., San Francisco 94110

WEST VIRGINIA PEOPLE'S ENERGY

NETWORK publishes one of the highest quality newsletters in the country on rural energy issues. The 8 page typewritten July/August 1983 issue (number 20), took readers on a journey into our rural past where one article's author attempted to "explain" 1983 to his grandparents who lived in a world where production and consumption were not separate as they are now. Horses and the practical advantages as well as the difficulties of their use on today's small farms was the subject of another item and a passively heated livestock watering system was described. Six issues are \$10 from: M.V.P.E.N. Rt. 1, Box 79A Burlington WV 26710

PLANET DRUM FOUNDATION "Since 1974 Planet Drum Foundation has been developing and communicating the concept of bioregions - through regional bundles, books, and the triannual review, Raise the Stakes. We are now working to foster exchange among bioregional groups and projects - the growing number of people exploring cultural, environmental, and economic forms appropriate to the places where they live.

We encourage readers to share vital information, both urban and rural, about what is going on in their native regions." PLANET DRUM, PO Box 31251 San Francisco CA 94131 (415) 285-6556

BETH MATERIAL and information about the system of philosophy presented by Jane Roberts as a consequence of her trance communications with an entity named Seth, are available from: THE AUSTIN BETH CENTER 1516-B Harrell La Austin, TX 78703 (512) 479-8909

RESEARCHING ASTROLOGY through MICRO-COMPUTERS (RANC)

"RANC is a journal for astrologers interested in using microcomputers to enhance their astrological practice & experience." Subscriptions are \$10 from

RANC c/o Paul O. Hewit
1973A Yonge St. #1
Toronto Ont. CANADA M4S 1Z6

RESOURCE-EXCHANGE is an unclassified section of Philadelphia's quarterly Exchange magazine. Devoted to the needs of non-profit organizations, RESOURCE-EXCHANGE provides a place for agencies to make their needs (and what they can offer in exchange for their needs) known to a larger audience. "Exchanges, barter, and negotiations are done directly between two contributors." for more info, write: R-E, c/o John Selsky
M.B.S.C. 340 Vance Hall,
3733 Spruce St., Phila PA 19104

COMMUNITY JOBS presents job listings and internship openings in non-profit community organizations. Its tabloid format also includes articles useful to non-profits and the people who work in them (or want to work in them). Individual subscriptions are \$12 for 10 issues.

Community Jobs, 1520 16th Street
Washington DC 20036 (202) 387-7720

NOMADIC BOOKS Uncommon books for budget minded and adventurous travelers - send for their catalog/ newsletter - \$1. NOMADIC BOOKS, PO Box 454 Athens GA 30603

The NEIGHBORHOOD WORKS is a monthly nuts & bolts urban community how-to magazine. Its focus is on self-reliance and it covers energy conservation, housing, environmental, employment, funding and related issues which face urban community organizers non-profit organizations and residents. Published in Chicago, the WORKS, much to its credit, draws on other cities for some of its material. The 24 page May 1983 issue contained an article on "Keeping Cool (Naturally) As Our Weather Heats Up," which originated with a Solar group in Philadelphia and "Non-profits May Find Growing Smaller Is Their Best Strategy" written by a group in Rensselaerville, NY. The bulk of the material originates in Chicago and is well illustrated with both B&W photos and graphics. Good lay-out and typesetting make the Neighborhood Works' useful articles easy to read. One year subscriptions are \$18, Samples are \$1.50. from: CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY 570 W. Randolph St, Chicago IL 60606

THE STELLE GROUP is a planned community in Illinois which is "presently evolving into an Ecumenical New Age City" based on the ideas in "The Ultimate Frontier" by Ekial Kueshana. Write for free brochures and for info about their newsletter. Copies of Kueshana's book are \$6.95 from:

THE STELLE GROUP, Box 223 Stelle, IL 60919 (815) 256-2200

Letters

January 4, 1984

Dear Stan,

I received a letter today from Mary Ellen Hays in Wickenburg, Arizona who subscribes to your newsletter about networks. I am wondering if your readers might be interested in the loose network of people around the world who are studying grids and their implications for world peace.

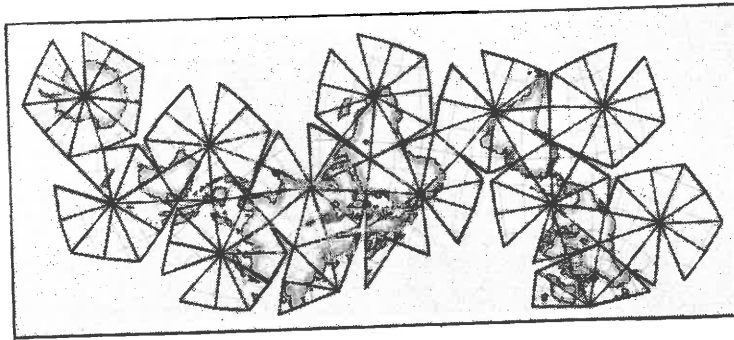
I am relatively new to grid studies, though I've been doing various kinds of networking for years. This one has a special kind of cohesiveness to it that we've found very supportive. The cohesion seems to be in the shared desire to learn what's possibly going on with grids. I haven't found any organizations or network central or anything like that. I would venture to say that, on the basis of a year's correspondence, there may be 50-100,000 people around the world actively pursuing an interest in grid geometries and applications--ranging from sacred geometers to dowsers to people like us.

If you get a chance to read some of the enclosed materials, this will give a better idea of what we're trying to do. It can be best described, I think, as an educational effort to support the many activist "one world" movements.

If you have time to comment, or to mention it in your newsletter, we would appreciate it very much. Also, could you send us subscription information for your newsletter.

Thanks very much, and happy new year.

Bethe Hagens,
Professor of Anthropology
Governors State Univ.
Park Forest South, IL 60466



21 July 1982

Dear Seth,

This is a quick note to let you know SOMETHING before I lose your card in a jumble -- You write wondering if the People Index and LSTA still exist. Yes, if you interpret it as meaning that I am still interested in seeing to it that the work encompassed by those labels gets accomplished. LSTA (the Library for Social and Technological Alternatives) was a label which I put upon a community resource library that I have been collecting for several years now. In September 1976 I brought it under the organizational shelter of Village Design, a nonprofit corporation set up to nurture alternative community developments and communications. That has made it possible for others and me to make tax-deductible donations to support LSTA projects, one of which is the People Index. Last year a friend and colleague of mine, Bob Hill, helped write some grant proposals, hoping that we could get some real funding besides (mostly) my own contributions; it didn't work; but some day we'll try again. The library collection is really quite extensive, taking up more of my house each month. A small number of people come by and help file and organize things so the place is only partly a jumble. What it needs most now is an effective index. The funding support is touch and go, especially now as I am currently drawing unemployment. But the will is still here! I have not recently been doing much with the People Index, as I

PEOPLE INDEX: a contacts-skills exchange

So often people with much to share will gather at events for common purposes only to go home again without meeting. This PEOPLE INDEX form is an attempt to help introduce us to each other. We can post it at gatherings immediately or print a special DIRECTORY for our meeting, or print a general PEOPLE INDEX of all of us--to help make those vital contacts that can enrich our lives.

REGARDING GROUPS in the PEOPLE INDEX:
I want to connect people to people, since it is

have not found anyone locally to help carry through with the rest of the production and printing of an actual People Index Directory. I have spent most of my energies in creating a small computer-based library index file and networking environment for "social and technological alternatives". I can see the People Index becoming a computer bulletin board available over the telephone -- much as the many home computer bulletin boards which are now becoming popular among computer hobbyists. I believe a "snapshot" paper printout version made available to people without computer terminal access is also a necessity, but I would like to nurture the appropriate use of our new computer technology.

That is a very minimal reply for your request, but at least I got something to you! Please let me know more about your interests and desires, as perhaps we can one day do something together.

for now,
Bill Hill, LSTA, BOX 472
Fairfax CA 94930

(Our apologies to Bill for losing his letter in our "publish immediately" file two issues ago. -- SP)

Dear Seth & Stanley

An important concept you may want to relate to your audience:

"Networking is only as valuable as the actions taken together to achieve common goals that benefit oneself and each other, that benefits all."

Ken Handwerker
c/o Nathan's Famous Inc.
1515 Broadway
New York NY 10036

In 1982 Ken wrote and xerox-published a manuscript promoting global cooperation. It's language is "new age", its elements are presented humbly, in prose, poetry and graphics - it is difficult reading. But for those of you who like poetry of thought / design / coordination / concept, it is an invitation from him:

"To involve yourself with: A proposal for action in the present here and now - action by me, you and me to sustain grow and succeed. The words, thoughts, feelings and ideas expressed here are the recent writings of my last 10 years of seeking out, exploring, discovering, sharing, recognizing life as it is and can be to me."

If you have similar self-published material, you might want to enter a swap with Ken for his writings. Or just write to him and let him know what your interests are. -- SP

Dear Stan Pokras,

Enjoyed the article you ran by Pat Wagner in Summer '83 *Other Networks*, largely because it included definite steps to take -- something altogether too rare, perhaps because style seems to dictate exclusion of the mundane. (There's lots about saving the world, less about what to do in the meantime.) I'm enclosing some more suggestions for finding out what one wants to know. [see Julie's article, page 6] I'll wait a few months before submitting it elsewhere so that you'll have first crack.

Sincerely yours,
Julie Summers

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

This Spring may be the beginning of a number of new activities for the Media Project, and for me. As I mentioned in the note about the Networking Institute (page 8), I may be leading a group conversation about networking for professionals. This will involve using the EIES computer conference system to exchange ideas with people who see networking as a part of their career. Some of these exchanges will be reproduced, probably in the *Networking Newsletter* and therefore will be available to a wider audience. It seems appropriate to be planning a project with Jeff & Jessica. Their devotion to networking easily matches my own.

On this page in the last issue, I mentioned Apple Computer's network grant program. Apple gives up to 5 systems per proposal to non-profit organizations to assist their communications capability. The Media Project, along with three New Jersey environmental groups, has applied for this grant. Our proposal involves setting up four computer "bulletin boards." When a computer acts as a bulletin board, it is available to be called on the phone by other people with computers. (Or computers programmed to call on their own.) This arrangement will provide a large number of environmentally concerned people with access to information gathered by the many New Jersey environmental organizations. Since these systems permit both message posting to all callers and personal "mail" it will be a good organizing and lobbying tool. The Media Project's role in this is in system design, training, and promotion. The Media Project's Apple will be used as a link to a national environmental network. This all depends upon Apple funding our proposal. Here, I'll insert a moment's silent meditation...

<<<...how about it, Apple?>>>

In the next issue of *Other Networks* we will have a report about the growing interest in "multilogues." Those of you who have been with us for a while may remember an article about multilogues by Paul Angel which we published in our third (green) issue. Paul's article described the growth of the "amateur press" movement and its entry into the world of science fiction fans. The well known science fiction/fantasy writer H.P. Lovecraft was among the practitioners of group correspondence during the 1920's. Of course, cheap copying services have replaced the use of private presses for most of the groups exchanging in this manner today, but you'll have to wait till next time for more detail! Oh, one more note, I've been teaching people to use multilogues as a way to prepare for the day when they can use computer services or bulletin boards...

Have a good Spring!

-- SP

PUBLIC INTEREST MEDIA PROJECT

FINANCIAL REPORT from August 1983 to June 1984 (not including this issue)

Fund Balance 8/1/83	\$46.34	Expenses	Amount
Add: Income	899.12	Postage	\$183.85
Available to spend	945.46	Office Renovation	138.44
Less: Expenses	(744.60)	Travel	82.50
Fund Balance 6/6/84	200.86	Printing	77.91
-----		Research	77.00
		Supplies	72.50
Income	Amount	Phone	45.00
O.N. Subscriptions	\$575.00	Miscellaneous	40.94
Contributions	178.12	Bank Charges	26.46
Miscellaneous	78.00		
Small World & CBB list	68.00	Total Expenses	\$744.60
Total Income	\$899.12		

Paul Sank, Treasurer

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Contributions to assist our work are welcome,
all contributions are tax deductible.

On Thanksgiving Day, 1983, Gary Warne, friend, jester, visionary, teacher, indescribable, and Answer Man, died unexpectedly of a heart attack.

As all of you whose lives he touched know personally, Gary lived as a truly exceptional person. He challenged us all to dream, to play, to laugh, to fill our senses, and to blossom with ideas. He believed, passionately, in communicating, adventuring, and the power of the personal. In the light of his example, it has always been appropriate to embrace life's risks and follies with an open heart and mind, and every tribute to him will bear the mark of that kind of brilliance.

Gary knew literally thousands of people, usually in some kind of remarkable way. For that reason, it is particularly painful for us, doing this newsletter, to tell you of his death in this, less personal way, but the enormity of his presence makes any other means impossible. So, in the knowledge that each of you will take this issue and weave and color it with your own personal, rich memories, we invite you to celebrate Gary's story, and to honor him....

...from the last issue of
The Answer Man Newsletter



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